

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPLICANT(S): DAFFNER et al.

FILING DATE: Herewith

ART UNIT:

TITLE: APPARATUS AND PROCESS FOR DATA COMMUNICATION, IN
PARTICULAR FOR THE PARAMETERIZATION AND REMOTE
MONITORING OF HEATING INSTALLATIONS

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 454-0010865-US (PAR)

Commissioner of Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified, enclosed patent
application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, line 7, please insert the following heading:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

On page 1, on the line before the first paragraph,
please insert the following:

--1. Field of the Invention--

On page 1, on the line before the second paragraph,
please insert the following:

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--2. Brief Description of Prior Developments--

On page 2, on the line before the fourth paragraph,
please insert the following:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

On page 16, on the line before the second paragraph,
please insert the following:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

On page 17, on the line before the first paragraph,
please insert the following:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--

On page 30, after the heading "Claims", please insert
the following:

--What is claimed is:--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 3 through 10, 12, 13, 14, 16 and 17
as rewritten below:

3. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the bus system (5) is a house or field bus
and/or the second data transmission protocol is a
LON protocol.

10085817-022602

4. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first data transmission protocol is a protocol on the basis of the Internet Protocol IP, in particular the Simple Network Management Protocol SNMP, the Hypertext Transport Protocol HTTP, the Transport Control Protocol TCP or the LonWorks Network Protocol.
5. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the protocol converter (1) retrieves predetermined data from facilities (2, 3, 4) at given intervals, stores them, sends them to system unit (8) and/or holds them in store for inquiry by system unit (8).
6. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the protocol converter (1) includes a memory (6) for storing the data retrieved from the facilities.
7. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the protocol converter (1) sends data received from system unit (8) and determined for a certain facility (2, 3, 4) via the bus system (5) to the corresponding facility (2, 3, 4).
8. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the protocol converter (1) activates a predetermined connection when a trouble or maintenance report was received from one of the facilities (2, 3, 4).

9. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the protocol converter (1) sends a given message, in particular a facsimile message, a voice message, an e-mail, or an SMS message, when a trouble or maintenance report was received from one of the facilities (2, 3, 4) and the connection to system unit (8) is troubled.
10. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the connection between protocol converter (1) and system unit (8) is established via an analog and/or digital telephone line and has an analog modem, a GSM modem or an ISDN modem (7, 9).
12. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein system unit (8) connects to protocol converter (1) at given intervals and retrieves predetermined data which were previously retrieved from facilities (2, 3, 4) and buffered by protocol converter (1).
13. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the system unit (8) connects to protocol converter (1) and/or sends data for a certain facility (2, 3, 4) to protocol converter (1) and/or receives data of a certain facility (2, 3, 4) from protocol converter (1).
14. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein system unit (8) has a database (10) containing the configuration, commissioning, maintenance and/or operation data of facilities (2,

3, 4) and/or the protocol converter (1), in particular trouble and maintenance reports.

16. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein system unit (8) sends a given message, in particular a facsimile message, a voice message, an e-mail or SMS message, when a certain trouble or maintenance report was received from one of facilities (2, 3, 4).

17. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein several system units (8, 11) connect to protocol converters (1) and/or receive data from the protocol converters (1) and/or send data to the protocol converters (1), system units (8, 11) being connectable to each other via the internet.

REMARKS

Claim 3 originally depended from claims 1 and 2. The change to claim 3 is to remove the multiple dependency to claim 2. Claim 3 remains dependent on the main base claim 1 from which claim 2 also depends. Thus, the amendment does not limit or narrow claim 3 and is not being made for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

Claim 4 originally depended from claims 1 to 3. The change to claim 4 is to remove the multiple dependency to claims 2 and 3. Claim 4 remains dependent on the main base claim 1 from which claims 2 and 3 also depend. Thus, the amendment does not limit or narrow claim 4 and

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is not being made for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

Claim 5 originally depended from claims 1 to 4. The change to claim 5 is to remove the multiple dependency to claims 2, 3 and 4. Claim 5 remains dependent on the main base claim 1 from which claims 2, 3 and 4 also depend. Thus, the amendment does not limit or narrow claim 5 and is not being made for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

Claim 6 originally depended from claims 1 to 5. The change to claim 6 is to remove the multiple dependency to claims 2, 3, 4 and 5. Claim 6 remains dependent on the main base claim 1 from which claims 2, 3, 4 and 5 also depend. Thus, the amendment does not limit or narrow claim 6 and is not being made for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

Claim 7 originally depended from claims 1 to 6. The change to claim 7 is to remove the multiple dependency to claims 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Claim 7 remains dependent on the main base claim 1 from which claims 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 also depend. Thus, the amendment does not limit or narrow claim 7 and is not being made for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

Claim 8 originally depended from claims 1 to 7. The change to claim 8 is to remove the multiple dependency to claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. Claim 8 remains dependent on the main base claim 1 from which claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 also depend. Thus, the amendment does not limit or

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narrow claim 8 and is not being made for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

Claim 9 originally depended from claims 1 to 8. The change to claim 9 is to remove the multiple dependency to claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. Claim 9 remains dependent on the main base claim 1 from which claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 also depend. Thus, the amendment does not limit or narrow claim 9 and is not being made for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

Claim 10 originally depended from claims 1 to 9. The change to claim 10 is to remove the multiple dependency to claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. Claim 10 remains dependent on the main base claim 1 from which claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 also depend. Thus, the amendment does not limit or narrow claim 10 and is not being made for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

Claim 12 originally depended from claims 1 to 11. The change to claim 12 is to remove the multiple dependency to claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11. Claim 12 remains dependent on the main base claim 1 from which claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 also depend. Thus, the amendment does not limit or narrow claim 12 and is not being made for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

Claim 13 originally depended from claims 1 to 12. The change to claim 13 is to remove the multiple dependency to claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. Claim

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13 remains dependent on the main base claim 1 from which claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 also depend. Thus, the amendment does not limit or narrow claim 13 and is not being made for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

Claim 14 originally depended from claims 1 to 13. The change to claim 14 is to remove the multiple dependency to claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13. Claim 14 remains dependent on the main base claim 1 from which claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 also depend. Thus, the amendment does not limit or narrow claim 14 and is not being made for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

Claim 16 originally depended from claims 1 to 15. The change to claim 16 is to remove the multiple dependency to claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15. Claim 16 remains dependent on the main base claim 1 from which claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 also depend. Thus, the amendment does not limit or narrow claim 16 and is not being made for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

Claim 17 originally depended from claims 1 to 16. The change to claim 17 is to remove the multiple dependency to claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16. Claim 17 remains dependent on the main base claim 1 from which claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 also depend. Thus, the amendment does not limit or narrow claim 17 and is not

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being made for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

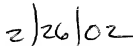
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121 (as amended on 11/7/2000) the rewritten claim(s) above are shown on separate page(s) marked up to show all the changes relative to the previous version of that section.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,



Geza G. Ziegler, Jr., Reg. No.: 44,004



Date

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APPLICATION ENTITLED: APPARATUS AND PROCESS FOR DATA
COMMUNICATION, IN PARTICULAR FOR THE PARAMETERIZATION
AND REMOTE MONITORING OF HEATING INSTALLATIONS

MARKED UP CLAIM(S):

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3. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~,
wherein the bus system (5) is a house or field bus
and/or the second data transmission protocol is a
LON protocol.
4. (Amended) The apparatus according to ~~any least one~~
~~of claims~~claim 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein the first data
transmission protocol is a protocol on the basis of
the Internet Protocol IP, in particular the Simple
Network Management Protocol SNMP, the Hypertext
Transport Protocol HTTP, the Transport Control
Protocol TCP or the LonWorks Network Protocol.
5. (Amended) The apparatus according to ~~at least one~~
~~of claims~~claim 1 ~~to 4~~, wherein the protocol
converter (1) retrieves predetermined data from
facilities (2, 3, 4) at given intervals, stores
them, sends them to system unit (8) and/or holds
them in store for inquiry by system unit (8).
6. (Amended) The apparatus according to ~~at least one~~
~~of claims~~claim 1 ~~to 5~~, wherein the protocol
converter (1) includes a memory (6) for storing the
data retrieved from the facilities.

7. (Amended) The apparatus according to ~~at least one~~
~~of claims~~claim 1 to 6, wherein the protocol
converter (1) sends data received from system unit
(8) and determined for a certain facility (2, 3, 4)
via the bus system (5) to the corresponding
facility (2, 3, 4).
8. (Amended) The apparatus according to ~~at least one~~
~~of claims~~claim 1 to 7, wherein the protocol
converter (1) activates a predetermined connection
when a trouble or maintenance report was received
from one of the facilities (2, 3, 4).
9. (Amended) The apparatus according to ~~at least one~~
~~of claims~~claim 1 to 8, wherein the protocol
converter (1) sends a given message, in particular
a facsimile message, a voice message, an e-mail, or
an SMS message, when a trouble or maintenance
report was received from one of the facilities (2,
3, 4) and the connection to system unit (8) is
troubled.
10. (Amended) The apparatus according to ~~at least one~~
~~of claims~~claim 1 to 9, wherein the connection
between protocol converter (1) and system unit (8)
is established via an analog and/or digital
telephone line and has an analog modem, a GSM modem
or an ISDN modem (7, 9).
12. (Amended) The apparatus according to ~~at least one~~
~~of claims~~claim 1 to 11, wherein system unit (8)
connects to protocol converter (1) at given
intervals and retrieves predetermined data which

were previously retrieved from facilities (2, 3, 4) and buffered by protocol converter (1).

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13. (Amended) The apparatus according to ~~at least one~~ ~~of claims~~claim ~~1 to 12~~, wherein the system unit (8) connects to protocol converter (1) and/or sends data for a certain facility (2, 3, 4) to protocol converter (1) and/or receives data of a certain facility (2, 3, 4) from protocol converter (1).
14. (Amended) The apparatus according to ~~at least one~~ ~~of claims~~claim ~~1 to 13~~, wherein system unit (8) has a database (10) containing the configuration, commissioning, maintenance and/or operation data of facilities (2, 3, 4) and/or the protocol converter (1), in particular trouble and maintenance reports.
16. (Amended) The apparatus according to ~~at least one~~ ~~of claims~~claim ~~1 to 15~~, wherein system unit (8) sends a given message, in particular a facsimile message, a voice message, an e-mail or SMS message, when a certain trouble or maintenance report was received from one of facilities (2, 3, 4).
17. (Amended) The apparatus according to ~~at least one~~ ~~of claims~~claim ~~1 to 16~~, wherein several system units (8, 11) connect to protocol converters (1) and/or receive data from the protocol converters (1) and/or send data to the protocol converters (1), system units (8, 11) being connectable to each other via the internet.